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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 317, AUGUST 24, 1961

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 317, BONN PRIORITY 282, INFORMATION LONDON 208, MOSCOW 202, PARIS 215, POLAD USAREUR 188.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

FOLLOWING IS ROUNDUP BERLIN SITUATION AUG 24:

1. EAST BERLIN: SITUATION RE PRIVATELY OWNED US FORCES REGISTERED VEHICLES ENTERING EAST BERLIN UNCLEAR. SINCE LAST REPORT, TWO CARS SUCCESSFULLY ENTERED EAST BERLIN VIA FRIEDRICHSTRASSE WITHOUT OFFICERS SHOWING IDENTIFICATION AND RETURNED SAME ROUTE THREE HOURS LATER EXITING WITHOUT INCIDENT. OTHERS IN PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES WERE TURNED BACK UPON REFUSAL SHOW DOCUMENTATION. INCIDENT INVOLVING ARMY TOUR BUSES REPORTED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TEL.

(2) PILOT OF ARMY HELICOPTER INSPECTING SECTOR-SECTOR BORDER TODAY, WHO HAS BEEN MAKING TRIP DAILY, REPORTED SIZEABLE DECREASE IN NUMBER OF EAST GERMAN UNIFORMED PERSONNEL ALONG BORDER.

SOVIET CONTROLLERS ARRIVING ON DUTY AT BASC THIS MORNING REPORTED THEY HAD BEEN MEANED BY SURLY WEST BERLIN CROWD WHEN ENTERING AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE. MISSION CHECK WITH POLICE REVEALED THAT 10 OR 15 WEST BERLINERS NEERED SOV VEHICLE BUT TOOK NO PHYSICAL ACTION. MISSION HAS ARRANGED MILITARY ESCORT PICK UP INCOMING SOV BASC DUTY TEAM 8:30 A.M. DAILY, ESCORT TO ACA BUILDING, WHERE OUTGOING SHIFT WILL BE PICKED

UP

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UP AND ESCORTED BACK TO SECTOR BORDER.

DURING FORENOON US PATROLS REPORTED FROM FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CROSSING POINT THAT VOPO WATER-THROWERS WERE IN ACTION AGAINST CROWD SEVERAL HUNDRED SIGHTSEERS ASSEMBLED AT WESTERN SIDE OF SECTOR BORDER. WEST BERLIN POLICE SENT TO SCENE TO KEEP ONLOOKERS MOVING. IN OTHER WATER-THROWER INCIDENT ONE US SOLDIER ON PATROL AT SECTOR BORDER DRENCHED; WATER APPARENTLY AIMED AT PHOTOGRAPHERS RATHER THAN SOLDIER.

ERECTION BARBED WIRE FENCING, CONCRETE BARRIERS ON SECTOR-SECTOR AND SECTOR-ZONAL BORDERS CONTINUING, ESPECIALLY AROUND S-BAHN TRACKS.

2. WEST BERLIN: WEST BERLIN CRIMINAL POLICE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED CHECK IDENTITY DOCUMENTS OF PERSONS ENTERING WEST BERLIN FROM SOVSECTOR. EAST BERLINERS WILL BE REQUIRED SIGN REGISTRATION LISTS MAINTAINED AT SECTOR CROSSING CONTROL POINTS. CONTROL TENTS TO BE ERECTED ON WEST BERLIN SIDE AT CROSSING POINTS. PROMINENT COMMUNIST FUNCTIONARIES AND PROPAGANDISTS WILL BE REFUSED ENTRY INTO WEST BERLIN.

SENAT HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE TO BEGIN CLOSING UP FOUR WEST BERLIN SED OFFICES TOMORROW MORNING (TO BALANCE NUMBER OF SPD OFFICES CLOSED IN EAST BERLIN). ALTHOUGH COMMANDANTS WITHHELD DECISION ON GOVMAYOR'S REQUEST FOR PROHIBITION OF SED (BERLIN'S 295 DEPT, 261 BONN), SENAT JUSTIFYING ACTION ON GROUND IT NOT LEGALLY BANNING SED BUT ONLY CLOSING OFFICES. NOTICES WILL BE POSTED ON DOORS STATING OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL INTER-SECTOR MOVEMENT RESTORED.

SENAT WEDNESDAY ANNOUNCED DECISION PROTECT RIGHTS OF BORDER-CROSSERS NOW PREVENTED ENTERING WEST SECTORS AND CALLED ON EMPLOYERS TO ENDORSE SENAT ACTION. SENAT REPORTED PREPARING LAW PROVIDING THAT RIGHTS OF BORDER-CROSSERS REMAIN UNAFFECTED UNTIL END OF TRAVEL CONTROL MEASURES. DGB-BERLIN ANNOUNCED THAT

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BORDER-CROSSER TRADE UNION MEMBERS REMAIN MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WITH FULL RIGHTS PRESERVED. DGB NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS PLACING DM 250,000 AT DISPOSAL OF DGB-BERLIN FOR ASSISTANCE TO IN-COMMUTING BORDER-CROSSERS WHO REMAINED IN WEST BERLIN AND ARE NOW CUT OFF FROM ALL POSSESSIONS.

DGB ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT S-BAHN BOYCOTT WAS NOT INTENDED TO HARM RETAILERS WHO OPERATE INDIVIDUAL CONCESSIONS IN S-BAHN STATIONS. DGB CALLED ON POPULATION CONTINUE PATRONIZE THESE RETAILERS. DGB FURTHER DECLARED THAT PICKETS AT BAHNHOF ZOO NOT DIRECTING ACTION AGAINST INTER-ZONAL TRAFFIC. BERLINERS WERE ASKED TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT WITHOUT USING FORCE AGAINST ANYONE. EFFECTIVENESS BOYCOTT UNCHANGED.

RAILWAYMEN'S UNION (DGB) SUPPORTING BOYCOTT. SEVERAL HUNDRED RAILWAYMEN FIRED BY COMMUNIST REICHSBAHN AUTHORITIES AFTER 1949 STRIKE HAVE REPORTED UNION HEADQUARTERS VOLUNTEERING HELP IN BOYCOTT MEASURES.

BERLIN SPD ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATE DISSOLUTION ITS EIGHT BOROUGH ORGANIZATIONS IN EAST BERLIN; SIX THOUSAND SPD MEMBERS RELEASED FROM ALL OBLIGATIONS TO PARTY, BUT EXEC COMMITTEE RESERVES RIGHT TO RE-ESTABLISH PARTY IN EAST SECTOR. BERLIN SPD SAID ACTION TAKEN TO PROTECT EAST SECTOR MEMBERS FROM COMMUNIST PRESSURES TO HOLD JOINT MEETINGS WITH SED AND MAKE STATEMENTS AGAINST SPD POLICIES. DISSOLUTION DECIDED UPON AFTER VOPD'S CLOSED FOUR OF EIGHT SPD BOROUGH OFFICES.

AUTOBAHN AND RAIL TRAFFIC BERLIN-FEDREP PROCEEDING NORMALLY; SOVZONE TRAFFIC POLICE WEDNESDAY INSTITUTED INTERMEDIATE CHECKS, APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT NUMBER OF PASSENGERS TALLIES WITH NUMBER NOTED WHEN VEHICLE ENTERED SOVZONE, THUS REVIVING MEASURE GIVEN UP SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

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4- 317, AUGUST 24, 9 PM FROM BERLIN

EVENING AUG 23 VOPO'S THREW FOUR TEAR GAS SHELLS INTO CROWD
OF WEST BERLINERS GATHERED CLOSE TO SECTOR BORDER; WEST
BERLINER TOSSED ONE SHELL BACK, WITH APPARENT EFFECT ON
NEARBY VOPO'S.

LIGHTNER

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